



"A singular set of people, Watson."

the time Sherlock Holmes was 34 years old and Doctor John H. Watson 36.

Main Characters:

Mary Morstan, a young governess who appeals to Holmes for protection. Captain Morstan, Mary's dead father. Thaddeus Sholto, English gentleman who wants to right a wrongdoing done to Mary by his father. Bartholomew Sholto, Thaddeus' greedy brother. McMurdo, Pondicherry Lodge porter and gatekeeper. Lal Lao, butler at Pondicherry Lodge. Mrs. Bernstone, housekeeper at Pondicherry Lodge. Major Sholto, Thaddeus and Bartholomew's father. Jonathan Small, English escaped convict. Mahomet Singh, Abdullah Khan, and Dost Akbar, associates of Jonathan Small. Tonga, native Andaman islander, devoted to Small. Athelney Jones, Scotland Yard Detective. Mordecai Smith, steam launch owner. Mrs. Cecil Forrester, Mary's employer.

Notable Quotes:

"My mind rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram, or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere. I can dispense then with artificial stimulants. But I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental exaltation."

"The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward."

"I am the last and highest court of appeal in detection."

**An Inquiry into:
"The Sign of the Four"**

Vol. XIV No. 2 • November 5, 2023

The Sign of the Four was first published in *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine* on February 1890. It never appeared in *The Strand Magazine*. It is the second of the four Canonical novels.

The majority of our Canon chronologists point to 1888 as the year in which this case took place. If that is so, then at

<i>The Sign of the Four</i>	
<i>Chronologist</i>	<i>Date of the Adventure</i>
<i>Canon</i>	<i>July or September 7, 1888</i>
<i>Baring-Gould</i>	<i>Tuesday, September 18, 1888</i>
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Wednesday, September 7, 1887</i>
<i>Blakeney</i>	<i>July 1888</i>
<i>Brend</i>	<i>July 1888</i>
<i>Christ</i>	<i>Tuesday, September 25, 1888</i>
<i>Dakin</i>	<i>Thursday, September 27, 1888</i>
<i>Folsom</i>	<i>Tuesday, July 17, 1888</i>
<i>Hall</i>	<i>July 7, 1887</i>
<i>Keefauver</i>	<i>Tuesday, September 4, 1888</i>
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>1888</i>
<i>Zeisler</i>	<i>Monday, April 16, 1888</i>

Please note that Canon chronologists may differ on pivotal dates and comparative periods between cases, thus a simple majority is not necessarily correct. Most Canon scholars settle on a single chronologist's results for their research framework.

“Detection is, or ought to be, and exact science, and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner. You have attempted to tinge it with romanticism, which produces much the effect as if you had worked a love-story or an elopement into the fifth proposition of Euclid.”

More than once during the years that I had lived with him in Baker Street I had observed that a small vanity underlay my companion’s quiet and didactic manner.

“I never guess. It is a shocking habit—destructive to the logical faculty.”

“In an experience of women which extends over many nations and three separate continents, I have never looked upon a face which gave a clearer promise of a refined and sensitive nature.”

“It is of the first importance not to allow your judgment to be biased by personal qualities. A client is to me a mere unit,—a factor in a problem. The emotional qualities are antagonistic to clear reasoning. I assure you that the most winning woman I ever knew was hanged for poisoning three little children for their insurance-money, and the most repellant man of my acquaintance is a philanthropist who has spent nearly a quarter of a million upon the London poor.”

“Women are not to be entirely trusted—not the best of them.”

“When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.”

“[L]ove is an emotional thing, and whatever is emotional is opposed to that true cold reason which I place above all things. I should never marry myself, lest I bias my judgment.”



The Doctor’s Guilty Irritation

Watson opens his account of this case by confessing his irritation and guilt over his reticence to say something about Holmes’ drug use. It may be that the Good Doctor was exaggerating for effect; if not, then Holmes’ use of opiates was considerable—injected cocaine and morphine “three times a day for many months.”



Perhaps Holmes fell into the same trap Sigmund Freud did. The Father of Psychoanalysis experimented with cocaine and the stimulating alertness that he felt it produced, which pushed him into addiction. Unfortunately for those who followed his advice, he later recommended morphine as a cure for cocaine addiction.

It is not farfetched to think that Holmes may have been intrigued by the opioid and tried it on himself to see what the results were. One has only to remember Stamford’s description to Watson of Holmes’ personality in *STUD*: “Holmes is a little too scientific for my tastes—it approaches to cold-bloodedness. I could imagine his giving a friend a little pinch of the latest vegetable alkaloid, not out of malevolence, you understand, but simply out of a spirit of inquiry in order to have an accurate idea of the effects. *To do him justice, I think that he would take it himself with the same readiness.*” [Italics mine]

inquiry in order to have an accurate idea of the effects. *To do him justice, I think that he would take it himself with the same readiness.*” [Italics mine]

Ostensibly, the Great Detective would resort to drugs when there were no cases to work on and his mind rebelled against this idleness. Somehow, even this early in his career, this situation seems somewhat slim. It is well to recollect that he told Watson that “I am the last and highest court of appeal in detection. When Gregson or Lestrade or Athelney Jones are out of their depths—which, by the way, is their normal state—the matter is laid before me. I examine the data, as an expert, and pronounce a specialist’s opinion. I claim no credit in such cases. My name figures in no newspaper. The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward.” Although this specifically may have been in the case of the police, one would imagine that, “as an expert,” his “highest reward” would have also included a somewhat more concrete reward: an expert’s fee befitting the magnitude of the client’s problem.

A further indication of Sherlock Holmes’ developing career lies in his publishing activities which, of necessity, must have been directed to an adequately sized reading audience. As he admitted to Watson with just a trace of pedanticism, “I have been guilty of several monographs. They are all upon technical subjects. Here, for example, is one ‘Upon the Distinction between the Ashes of the Various Tobaccos.’ In it I enumerate a hundred and forty forms of cigar, cigarette, and pipe tobacco, with coloured plates illustrating the difference in the ash.”

(Which naturally leads to the question, Are there now—or have there ever been before—140 different kinds of distinctive tobaccos producing distinctive ashes?)

Although at the time Holmes may have yet to be recognized as an extraordinary investigator destined to become world-famous, he most certainly already was a recognized authority in crime. This recognition did not solely originate on the part of the official police force, but also colleagues—François le Villard, for example.

In view of all this, one must wonder how it could be, then, that in the middle of London, the globe’s most populous capital, the seat and center of a fabulous worldwide empire, that Holmes found himself without a single important consultation for three months. Added to this conundrum is the fact that, as he informed his biographer, his “. . . practice [had] recently extended to the Continent.”



If one assumes that the caseload was not as light as our sleuth described, then even when not lacking in cases he still seemed to need drugs. It seems more likely that it was not so much boredom, but addiction what kept him so attached to his hypodermic. Going by what Watson indicated regarding the proportion and rate of drug use, by today’s standards Holmes would certainly have to be considered a hopeless addict.

Contradictorily, he *was* able to function—formidably so—without drugs when on a case. Had he been addicted, he would have found himself forced had to continue the regular use of drugs to be able to function, even if involved in a fascinating investigation; not only that, as time passed and his addiction deepened, he would have required increasingly higher dosages to reach the desired effects.

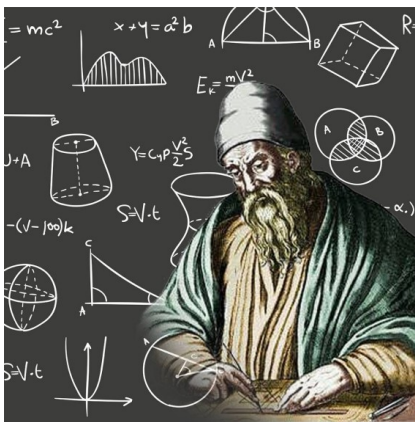
Incidentally, any of those who doubt his medical ability should note that Doctor Watson warned Holmes about the drugs’ “pathological and morbid process, which involves increased tissue-change and may at last leave a permanent weakness.” In 1888 cocaine was considered a wonder drug which

not only sold over the counter, but was indiscriminately added to many products, from snuff, candy, and ointments, to soft drinks (the “Coca” part in the Coca-Cola brand meant something!). There were preparations sold over the counter, such as laudanum (a tincture of opium about 10% opium by weight, the equivalent of 1% morphine, dissolved in alcohol) recommended for sundry maladies, from toothache to menstrual discomforts and restless babies and teething children.

In all this, Doctor Watson was ahead of his time. Later in the Canon we learn that somehow Watson managed to rescue him from this habit, and kept him from wasting his life at the point of a needle. However, in *MISS the Good Doctor* expressed his concerns: “I was well aware that the fiend was not dead, but sleeping; and I have known that the sleep was a light one and the waking near when in periods of idleness I have seen the drawn look upon Holmes’s ascetic face, and the brooding of his deep-set and inscrutable eyes.”

Unquestionably, Holmes had to have been more than just an occasional user.

Euclid’s Proposition



In this case we witness the first— of what will be several more— instance of Holmes unfeelingly and unfairly criticizing poor Watson on his literary efforts.

Although he boasted of having produced several monographs dealing with the more abstruse aspects of criminal investigation, I suspect that even back then Holmes realized that he would be incapable of producing as interesting and compelling novelization of his cases as Watson did.

His later literary efforts do resemble something by Euclid. Perhaps our sleuth’s fragile *amour propre* was irritated by this early realization.

Watson’s Health

When Holmes offered to share a hit of his seven-percent solution, Watson declined the offer of cocaine stating, “My constitution has not got over the Afghan campaign yet. I cannot afford to throw any extra strain upon it.” This denial points to at least some improvement since the time he and Holmes first met; in fact, when Holmes asks him whether his leg will bother him if he joins him, Watson answers negatively.

In short, it seems that by now our medico no longer considers his health “irretrievably ruined.” In fact, he seems to be keeping up with developments in his profession (he attempted to read readily handy material on pathology to get Mary Morstan out of his mind), which would indicate that he was already considering the possibility of getting back into harness.

The Pocket Watch

It was this particular deduction about Watson’s late brother solely based upon his watch that, as a boy, made me a lifelong fan of the Great Detective. Whenever I reread it, I become a kid again and am as delighted by it as I was the first time. Just to be curmudgeonly, however, I must point that it would appear that the data Holmes so ingeniously obtained from Watson’s watch could be subject to other interpretations.

For example, “When you observe the lower part of that watch-case you notice that it is not only dented in two places, but it is cut and marked all over from the habit of keeping other hard objects, such as coins or keys, in the same pocket. Surely it is no great feat to assume that a man who treats a fifty-guinea watch so cavalierly must be a careless man.”

The scratches our sleuth alludes to might have had a different origin. Instead of the elder brother it could have been Watson's father who had been the careless one. There was no way of telling which of the Watsons dented the watch. There was no indication, either, of which trembling Watsonian hand left all the scratches near its winding keyhole. The same holds true of the pawnbroker marks: they do not show who pawned the watch.

Although we know that Holmes considered guessing a "shocking habit," in this case he might have been doing just that. True, he knew that Watson's father was dead and that traditionally objects such as jewelry and watches passed on to the eldest son. Because Watson did not display the watch earlier on, Holmes' conclusion that it must have gone from his father to his oldest brother was correct and justified.

Another hint that one can develop from the selfsame watch is that originally Watson's family must have been very well off. A timepiece worth 50 guineas back then would cost about \$20,000 today. Not an outrageous price for first-class watch, considering that a Rolex easily costs upwards of \$15,000.



The Vanished Fortune and the Impossible Romance

"What was I, an army surgeon with a weak leg and a weaker banking-account, that I should dare to think of such things?" Watson soliloquizes sadly about his romantic attraction to the beautiful Mary Morstan. In the end, when his Dulcinea is pleased that the treasure is lost, our medico is beside himself with joy: Mary's poverty has placed her within his passionate reach.



But in reality, just how poor was our governess? Perennially, Canon students have argued about the value of Mary's six matched pearls. Jewellery store pearls (not museum pieces or royal precious items) seem to range in cost from <\$50 to \$2,500, sometimes more.

From all the fuss, we may assume that Miss Morstan's pearls were nothing short of extraordinary. Valuable enough to command, say, twice that price—\$5000. In 1888 this would roughly amount to ≈£13 per pearl, £80 for the lot; considerable for a governess with a yearly earnings of £30

(≈\$11,300). In those days, £80 prudently invested and left untouched until the proper time could have supplemented a comfortable retirement.

But by no extent of the imagination (even back then) was it a fortune.

If one is going to talk about fortune, then the fabulous Agra Treasure bears examination.

It contained:

- 143 diamonds
- 97 emeralds
- 170 rubies
- 40 carbuncles

210 sapphires
61 agates
Somewhat less than 300 pearls set on a gold coronet
Assorted beryls, onyxes, cats'-eyes, turquoises, and other unnamed jewels

We are informed that the whole shebang was worth £500,000 (≈\$190,000,000 today)! Mary Morstan would have indeed been a very wealthy young lady with the £250,000 (\$93,000,000 plus) that would have come to her.

Riches do not solely consist in how much one has; it is a matter of perspective as well. In Holmes' time, a dowry of £500,000 would have been considered steep, but not excessive coming from some of the many American heiresses who married British nobility during the latter half of the 19th century.

Captain Morstan's Supposedly Revealing Possessions

One wished Watson had been a little more revealing when it came to Captain Morstan.

First of all is the matter of his so-called sensational disappearance. According to Sholto, as children he and his brother Bartholomew discussed with their father the mysterious disappearance of Captain Morstan. As he recalled it, his vanishing caused a “sensation” that received considerable newspaper coverage.

This is peculiar considering that Captain Morstan was just one of hundreds of non-descript officers serving abroad returning to England—a widower of singularly little importance. His career must have been in the doldrums; after all the Army did not send its best and brightest to serve in penal colonies. Thus the disappearance of a relatively low-ranking Army officer would not have been that riveting. It might perhaps have received a passing mention in some newspapers, immediately becoming yesterday's news; not exactly a “sensation.”

More curious than this officer's disappearance is Holmes' atypical disinterest in Captain Morstan's last possessions. Considering how much he was able to deduce from one fairly nondescript watch one would imagine that there had to be a more than a fair chance that amongst the clothing, books, and “considerable number of curiosities from the Andaman Islands,” there might be some clues to be discerned. Yet he reacts excitedly over the wrapping paper of the pearl boxes.



Mary Morstan tells Holmes and Watson that “a curious paper was found in papa's desk which no one could understand,” prompting Holmes to immediately declare it to be “a document of importance.”

This reminds one of the questions that were certain to flunk you out of catechism class: “Where did Mrs. Cain come from?”

Where was this wretched desk? According to Mary her father *sent* (meaning that they were not in England at that time) her to a boarding school when she was “quite a child,” which I take to mean when she was *very* young, because she was only 17 when her father returned to London on leave.

So where had this mystifying desk been for all those years and when would have Morstan put the paper in it? Again, Holmes’ peculiar indifference towards Captain Morstan’s possessions is puzzling.

From Whence the Expectation?

“Ah! I expected it. Look here!”

“It looks like a thorn,” said I.

Irritatingly so, Watson did not deem it necessary to include any indication regarding what it was that



led Holmes to expect murder weapon such a blowgun in the Mother Country rather than the colonies. This expectation seems far-fetched considering that our sleuth had no reason to even suspect that someone like Tonga even existed. It seems unlikely that he kept special information of the Andaman Islands in his brain-attic.

Then, when they come upon the “child’s footprint” what did the Great Detective refer to when he said that his “memory failed” him, or he should have been able to foretell this? What in the whole known Universe would have led him to expect that someone like Tonga was using a blowgun in Imperial London, to eliminate annoy-

ing British subjects? Also, blowguns shoot darts, not single thorns,

Deep waters indeed.

Jonathan Small—Victim

One need not be a humanitarian to feel compassion for Jonathan Small. If ever the goddess Fortuna ill-treated a mortal Small was the one. He joins the Army and works on his training to pursue a military career only to promptly lose a leg to a crocodile. Although he is immediately abandoned not only by the Army but his comrades as well, he nevertheless carries on and finds work in a plantation where he succeeds on his labors only to once more have to leave everything behind as he is sucked into the whirlwind of the Sepoy Mutiny.

Regardless of all this and his physical handicap, he conducts himself well during the conflict only to be unexpectedly approached by the other three and forced under threat of death, to join them. He does and as he begins to find himself looking ahead to the prospect of leading a life of leisure



he is then condemned to a penal colony for a crime he did not commit although he acquiesced to it.

His life in prison continues his miserable streak of bad luck, the mistreatment he receives prompting him to approach Major Sholto with his story about the treasure, insisting that the original three also share in it, showing remarkable loyalty. For an infinitesimal amount of time things look like everything is going to turn out well he finds himself once again the victim of treachery this time on Sholto's part, who takes the whole treasure for himself while also cutting off Morstan, his fellow officer.

When Small finally makes it back and is prepared to confront Sholto, the man dies of shock when seeing him and the treasure is lost again. When Small finally gets access to the treasure, Tonga kills Bartholomew Sholto without Small having asked him to, causing his master to be inexorably pursued by none other than Sherlock Holmes himself, and arrested by the authorities.

Steadfast and brave and in the end, when Small saw that everything was lost, in his own way he still kept faith with his comrades by tossing the treasure into the river—if they were not the ones who were going to enjoy it, nobody else would.

The Canonical Ladies

It has been observed by the *illiterati* that there exists a dark streak of misogyny in the Canon.

This, of course is sheer nonsense. Although ACD wrote during a time when women were considered fragile, not very clever weak creatures who were unable to survive a hostile world without the constant protection of the stronger and wiser male; this is clearly absurd. For the most part many of the ladies inhabiting the Canon do not come out looking like shrinking violets (pun intended). Foremost on the list is Irene Adler—*The Woman*—who almost effortlessly bested Sherlock Holmes; Isadora Klein, who devoured men whole without a second thought; and even the seemingly mild-mannered Grace Dunbar, who had enough verve to control the lower violent passions of Neil Gibson, the Gold King, and channel them for good.



Mary Morstan is another such lady. During Holmes' investigation she takes the confirmation of her father's demise with fortitude, calms Mrs. Bernstone, the housekeeper after it is revealed that Bartholomew has been murdered, and in the end has no regrets over the loss of the treasure. Small wonder Watson was so taken by her!



What else happened in 1888:

Empire

Mashonaland and Matabeleland declared British sphere of influence.

Suez Canal Convention signed: Suez Canal declared open to ships of all nations and free from blockade.

Sarawak and Brunei placed under British protection.

A 7.0-7.3-magnitude earthquake strikes North Canterbury, New Zealand.

Great Britain annexes Christmas Island.

Queen Victoria grants a charter to the Imperial British East Africa Company, and it is incorporated in London, England.

Canadian Pacific Railway opens Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Hailstones kill about 250 in Moradabad district of Delhi, India.

Britain

County Councils' Act establishes representative county-based authorities.



Jack the Ripper has murder spree in Whitechapel, kills his last victim.

Annie Besant leads the London match factory girls on strike.

Commission to examine charges against Parnell.

◀ General Buller founds RASC (Royal Army Service Corps).

County Councils Act: elects councils to take over administrative duties of JPs.

Foundation of London General Omnibus Company.

Miners Federation of Great Britain formed; demands minimum wage.

Foundation of Scottish Labour Party.

Final report on Commission on Elementary Education Acts in England.

English Priory of Knights Hospitalers authorized by Royal Charter.

World

French Indochina formed.

Princess Isabel of Brazil signs *Lei Auréa* abolishing slavery.



Emperor Wilhelm I of Germany dies; Frederick III becomes Emperor from March to June, dies, and is succeeded by Wilhelm II.

Benjamin Harrison elected President of United States. Even though Cleveland received more popular votes, the Electoral College gives Harrison the election.

◀ Marshal Bazaine, officer in charge of the French Foreign Legion in Mexico during Emperor Maximilian's rule, dies.

Unemployment demonstration in Rome suppressed by the military.

Louisville, Kentucky, becomes first government in U.S. to adopt Australian ballot.

Agricultural depression causes Sweden to abandon free trade.

British Honduras adopts decimal currency.

Great Blizzard of 1888 strikes northeast U.S., 400 die.

Phil Sheridan, who fought as a Union General against the South during the American Civil War dies.

Clashes in Paris between Radicals and Monarchists. Anarchists riot in favor of weavers of Lille and glass blowers of Lion. Paris stone masons and waiters strike for higher wages and shorter work schedules.

More liberal constitution granted to Serbia by Milan.

Pennsylvania's Monongehela River rises 32 feet after 24-hour rainfall.

Bandai volcano in Japan erupts for first time in 1,000 years.

Use of Danish language forbidden in schools in German N. Schleswig.

Founding of the Dutch shipping line Koninklijke Paketvaart-Maatschappij (KPM). It supports the unification and development of the colonial economy.



Reconstructed free port of Hamburg opens.

The Washington Monument officially opens to the general public.

Italy and Spain sign military treaty.

◀ King Leopold II of Belgium introduces the Order of the African Star.

Revolution in Haiti culminates in the destruction of public buildings and the flight of President Salomon.

Ferdinand de Lesseps attempts to issue a fresh series of 1,000,000 bonds "to finish the Panama Canal." Proposal is withdrawn, de Lesseps resigns his directorship, and the project collapses.

Italians near Alite relieved by the withdrawal of the Abyssinians.

The first beauty contest is held, the Concours de Beauté, at Spa in Belgium. Winner is 18-year-old Bertha Soucaret of Guadeloupe.

First organized rodeo competition held, Prescott, Arizona.

New York State establishes electric chair for method of death penalty.

Boulangier supported by Monarchists in France; his popularity threatens Third Republic.

Main portion of Bremen incorporated into German Customs Union; parts of Wesser estuary remain free port.

Art

Van Gogh in Arles, Holland, paints *Sunflowers*, *Portrait of Armand Roulin*, *La Mousme*, and *Drawbridge at Arles*. Cuts off his left earlobe and gives it to a prostitute in Arles.

Oscar Wilde publishes *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*.

Casey at the Bat is published in *The San Francisco Examiner*, and recited publicly for the first time.

John Phillip Sousa composes the military march *Semper Fidelis* for the U.S. Marine Corp.

Tchaikovsky performs *Symphony No. 5 in E Minor* at St. Petersburg.

George Moore publishes *Confessions of a Young Man*.

Cézanne paints *Peasant in a Blue Smock*.

Guilbert and Sullivan debut *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Iannis Psichari, one of the creators of modern Greek literary language, publishes *My Journey* in demotic Greek.

Morris publishes *Dream of John Bull*, on a socialist commonwealth.

Matthew Arnold, critic, essayist, and poet dies.

Fontane publishes *Irrungen, Wirrungen*.

Monet paints *Cap d'Antibes*.

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch publishes *Troy Town*, a novel about Cornwall.

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec paints *Trace Horse of the Bus Line, Place Clichy*.

Stevenson publishes *The Black Arrow*, a novel about the War of the Roses.

Rimsky-Korsakov composes *Scheherazade*.

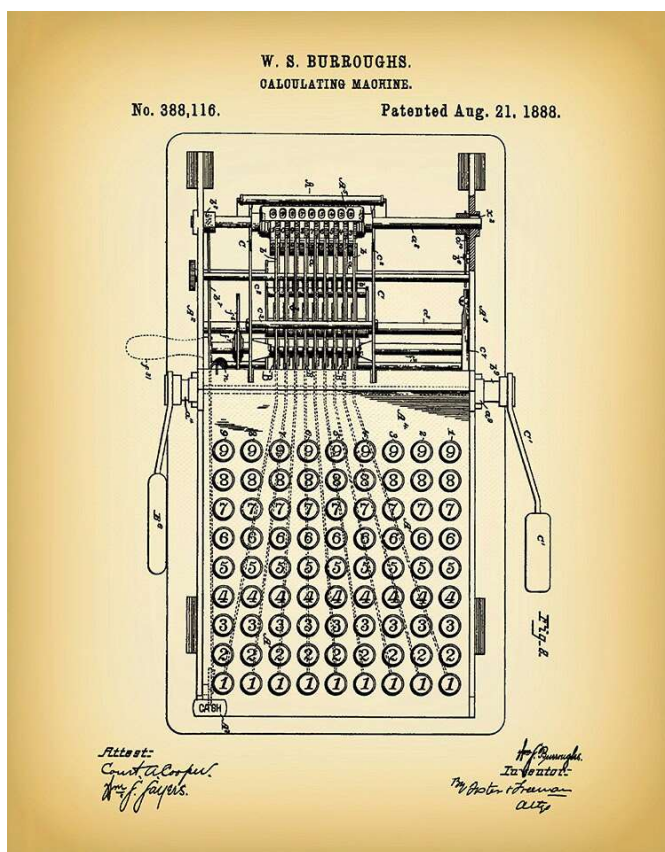
Charles Doughty publishes *Travels in Arabia Deserta*.

Seurat paints *Fishing Fleet at Port-en-Bessin*.

Thomas Hardy publishes *Wessex Tales*.

Kipling publishes *Soldiers Three*, and *Plain Tales from the Hills*; short stories of India.

Science and Technology



Dunlop's pneumatic tire developed, principle still unproven.

First wax drinking straw patented, by Marvin C Stone in Washington DC.

George Eastman registers the trademark "Kodak" and receives a patent for his box camera, which uses photographic paper roll-film.

Emile Berliner improves the gramophone.

Dr. Fitz, Boston surgeon, advocates the removal of the vermiform appendix in certain intestinal disorders, after several post-mortem operations. His advice is followed.

William Bundy patents the timecard clock.

◀ William Seward Burroughs patents the first successful adding machine.

First ballpoint pen patented.

The first known recording of classical music, Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, is made on wax cylinder.

Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian explorer, crosses the Greenland icefield.

Clinton Merriam founds the National Geographical Society in Washington, D.C., for "the increase and diffusion of geographical knowledge," and the first issue of its magazine is published.

Thomas Edison files a patent for the Optical Phonograph (the first movie).

Bertha Benz, wife of inventor Karl Benz, drives from Mannheim to Pforzheim, Germany in the first long distance automobile trip.

Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, formally inaugurates the Ewing duplex-pendulum seismometer, Ewing horizontal-pendulum seismometers, and Gray-Ewing vertical seismometers.

Hudson and Sclater publish *Argentine Ornithology*.

Mercerizing process introduced into cotton manufacture; facilitates later development of the artificial silk industry.

Spanish navy launches first submarine, designed by Isaac Peral. It features accumulator batteries, three dynamos, two 30-hp engines, electric propulsion, a torpedo tube, and periscope. Displacement is 80 tonnes, length 48 feet, and 6 feet beam.



Nikola Tesla makes first AC motor.

◀ Heinrich Hertz produces electromagnetic waves, proves light and heat are both forms of electromagnetic radiation. Sir Oliver Lodge makes same discovery independently. Hertz used an induction coil; Lodge Leyden jars.

In the U.S., Leroy Buffington patents a system to build skyscrapers.

Incubators are first used for premature infants.

Pasteur Institute for the treatment of hydrophobia founded.

Theophilus Van Kannel of Philadelphia patents revolving door.

Sir J. Dewar and Sir F. Abel invent cordite.

Louis Le Prince films the Roundhay Garden Scene, the earliest surviving film.

Next week's case: SCAN.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray, the Courageous Orderly

(a.k.a. Alexander E. Braun)

"I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghazis had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray, my orderly..."

All Sherlock Holmes photos have been published by courtesy of ITV Granada.

If you would like to join the Hounds of the Internet, email us at CourageousMurray@aol.com.

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